

## MISSIONARY PAGE

### WORLD EVANGELIZATION THE PRIMARY OBLIGATION OF THE CHURCH

By Rev. R. G. Flexon  
in "Pilgrim Holiness Advocate"

Anything less than a world vision and a universal redemption would have been unworthy of God. His love was world-wide. His great gift was for whosoever. His Son followed this pattern. When he sent his disciples to preach, it was to all the world. When he prayed his high-priestly prayer, in John 17, it was for the world. When he died, it was for the world.

How localized and provincial we are in our vision. It is our family we want saved, our church we want built up, our community we want to hear the gospel, our nation we want evangelized. What about the world—over half of whom never have heard his name? What about the more than one and one-half billion who never sat under an evangelistic message? What about the more than a thousand tribes who never have seen a Bible, never heard a prayer offered to God, never heard a gospel song, yea, never heard of Jesus Christ?

You may say, "I am not responsible." What about the Great Commission? What about God's thought of missions? He had only one Son, but he sent him as a missionary. He sent his greatest apostle as a missionary to the outcast. His only book is filled with the thought of missions. I might settle in my comfort and close my eyes to the world's need of him. But what will I do with Ezekiel 3 when I meet it and them at his judgment bar?

I ask, What right has any one of us to hear the gospel twice while four thousand go to hell every hour never having heard it once? We get blessed over the thought of Christ's second coming. But what about the millions who never have heard of his first coming? How can we be indifferent to the call for help and complacently say and feel that we have too much to do at home? With all the radios, churches, missions, tabernacles, religious presses, preachers, and Christians, all have an opportunity to hear, if they will. But what about the 1700 tribes who speak dialects in which no Bible or religious tract ever has been written, or the name of Christ ever been heralded? They are just as much your responsibility and mine as is America.

Jesus said, "The field is the world." He commanded, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." What does "all the world" mean? What does "every creature" mean? Does it mean just to go as far as I can without its costing me any of my prestige, my place in the church, or my creature comforts, or my church its place in the orbit of denominations? No; he said "Go." Did he command more than he expects or will demand of us when he returns? Do you think he is pleased with our eating the loaves of gospel bread in America while the multitudes in other lands die for a few crumbs? We condemn the rich man for letting Lazarus die of hunger, crying for the crumbs from his table while he fared sumptuously every day. But what about the heathen dying at your gate, begging for a few crumbs of gospel bread while you are overfed on it?

Business would die if it confined itself to America alone; and so will the church. Judson

realized that fact in his day, so he left America for Burma while millions were yet unsaved in America. Livingstone realized it and left England for Africa while millions in England still were unsaved. Paul realized it in his day. He left Palestine and Asia Minor for Europe while thousands were still unsaved in those places.

If we confine our efforts to the "homeland" to such an extent that men and money are diverted from the great cause of world evangelism, we will soon be on our way to our own graveyard, to be entombed as fossils in lifeless programmes.

### STIMULATE THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT

A missionary church is a live church. A missionary church is a growing church. It was a missionary spirit which brought the church into existence, and it is a missionary spirit which keeps the church alive. The People's Church, of Toronto, Ontario, under Dr. Oswald Smith, and Park Street Church, of Boston, Mass., under the pastoral leadership of Dr. Harold Ockenga, are notable examples of what a local group can do for missions and the wholesome influence of a missionary spirit on the church as a whole.

To encourage development of the missionary spirit, we would offer the following suggestions:

(1) Designate the day on which the monthly meeting is held as a day of prayer for missionaries and missionary work.

(2) Set a definite pattern for regular missionary giving. A tithe of the tithe has been suggested as a minimum. Ask each member to take ten per cent of the month's tithes and set it aside for the missionary meeting.

(3) Acquaint the people with the area and peoples where our missionary work is located. Ask every member to memorize the names of missionaries. Supply information regarding medical work, schools, etc. Obtain information on the number of churches, new buildings to be erected, etc.

(4) Have missionary speakers two or three times a year. Missionary conventions are a great stimulus to missionary interest.

(5) Use missionary films. "The King's Man," a story of the conversion of a Zulu chieftain's son, "Angel in Ebony," the life of Sammy Morris, and others, make tremendous impressions.

(6) Sponsor special projects on the field. A Bible School student can be supported for only \$40.00 per year. \$100.00 will support a native worker. A new church can be built for from \$500 to \$1,000, according to the size of the building, materials used, etc. Don't take the money required for budgets to sponsor special projects, this is needed to meet current expenses, but take a special project on as an "extra." It is a great stimulus to missionary interest for the people to feel "this is our special project."

Stimulate the missionary spirit in your church. The good effects of such a stimulus will be felt in every department of the work.

### A HUNDRED THOUSAND SOULS A DAY

*A hundred thousand souls a day  
Are passing one by one away,  
In Christless guilt and gloom.  
Without one ray of hope or light,  
With future dark as endless night,  
They're passing to their doom.  
O Holy Ghost! Thy people move,  
Baptize their hearts with faith and love,  
And consecrate their gold.  
At Jesus' feet their millions pour,  
And all their ranks unite once more,  
As in the days of old.  
Armies of prayer! your promise claim,  
Prove the full power of Jesus' Name  
And take the victory.  
Your conquering Captain leads you on,  
The glorious fight may still be won  
This very century.  
The Master's coming draws near,  
The Son of Man will soon appear,  
His kingdom is at hand  
But ere that glorious day can be,  
This Gospel of the Kingdom, we  
Must preach in every land.  
O let us then His coming haste,  
O let us end this awful waste  
Of souls that never die.  
A thousand million still are lost,  
A Saviour's Blood has paid the cost,  
O, hear their dying cry.  
O Church of Christ, what wilt thou say  
When in the awful judgment day  
They charge thee with their doom?*  
—A. B. Simpson

### FROM HAROLD AND SHIRLEY KIERSTEAD

Dear Friends,  
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Master.

Seeing that you have been so good in remembering us, it is our turn to remember you and say thank you very much for the parcel of used clothing. We do appreciate it very much and the contents will be put to a good use.

Harold has had a trip to Rhodesia with the Rev. Eric Haywood and the Rev. Paul Sanders. They went up to look over Rhodesia with regards to starting mission work. They found a promising area near Victoria Falls in Northern Rhodesia, about 1000 miles from here.

We have started building a preacher's house over at the Paulpietersburg Location. It is next to the Church building which opened last year.

We do solicit your prayers for the mission work in this land, there are many to gain through the Blood, but there are so many in darkness and sin and they seem so hard to reach. The devil is working hard, apparently he has not heard about the 40-hour week.

With Christian love,  
Yours for Him,  
Harold and Shirley Kierstead.

### THE CROSS!

A religion without the Cross is not Christ's religion. Woven into the very fibre of the Gospel, dyed into its threads, is the thought of sacrifice, of expiation. Leave out the Passion, and what becomes of the Gospel? A Gospel without the print of the nails is not the Gospel of Christ, and the voice that proclaims it is not the voice of a stranger.—Dr. J. R. Miller.

The King's Highway

### SHAMELESS INEFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Oliver G. Wilson  
Editor "Wesleyan Methodist"

I shall be told that I have reached a conclusion without proper investigation. Be that as it may I dare to declare that in the average church there will not be found five personal soul winners. Either the members are callously indifferent, or they have never been awakened to the peril of souls and to the grave responsibility which rests upon them. The facts are, personal work is not being done.

If we have an experience which is so vital, so assuring, so comforting, so transforming we should be telling others about it.

Leslie D. Weatherhead points out: "The early Christians simply astonished the pagan. He sat up and said to himself: 'These people have no money, no prestige, no culture, but they have got what the whole world is looking for—the secret of the mastery of the art of living.'"

There is a subtle feeling, unexpressed, that a well adjusted business life of a church, with the budgets and bills all paid and the pastor well cared for, somehow make up for the lack of newborn souls.

The tendency is to hide behind the smoke screen of feverish activities, and the strict observance of and conformity to tradition, while the multitudes tramp by the church doors untouched by the appeal of the Gospel. It is time we examined some fundamentals:

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away."

Every unused talent will be recalled, and the unprofitable servant cast into outer darkness.

Every one with burned out lamps will miss the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Every lukewarm professor will be utterly rejected.

All those who live a self-indulgent life while the poor go hungry, naked, and cold will be punished by the Judge at the final judgment.

What is desperately needed is for those professing the name of Christ to become so possessed with Christ that they will release the power of the Holy Spirit in this generation.

In our printed formulas we declare a gospel that will save the vile from his vileness, and make saintly the hard, cruel, hateful sinner. We affirm a grace that cleanses the heart from selfishness and pride, and empowers the believer to live a holy life here and now. Why then is the hurt not healed? The message is shut up in four walls, and is only proclaimed by the man who makes his living by telling it. No one rushes from the upper room, radiant and happy, to cry "That is it. I have found the secret."

"A program is given," but the POWER is missing. Big budgets are collected, but big burdens for souls are absent. Trained singers displace triumphant singing.

It has been stated that the average church could do all that it is doing if God did not exist. This is a humiliating charge, and should be repudiated by waves of supernatural power, blessing the believer and convicting the sinner. The only thing that will give lie to this sharp accusation is the shout of new-born souls.

Is your church content to rest complacently in a well ordered program while souls go screaming into eternal despair? Does the ineffectiveness of your efforts as compared with the promises embarrass you when you say you

are a Christian?

An outpouring of the power of God's Spirit will come when we confess our ineffectiveness, humbly beg forgiveness and wait until a new vision, a new passion grips the heart with consuming zeal.

### THE DIARY OF A BIBLE

January 15th—Been resting quietly for a week. The first few nights after the first of this year my owner read me regularly, but she has forgotten me, I guess.

February 2nd—Clean up. I was dusted with other things and put back in my place.

March 17th—Clean up. Dusted and in my old place again. Have been down in the lower hall since Sunday.

April 2nd—Busy day. Owner led league meeting and had to look up references. She had an awful time finding me, though I was right there in my place all the time.

May 5th—In Grandma's lap all afternoon. She is here on a visit. She let a teardrop fall on Colossians 2:5-7.

May 6th—In Grandma's lap again this afternoon. She spent most of her time on I. Corinthians 13 and the last four verses of the fifteenth chapter.

May 7th, 8th, 9th—In Grandma's lap every afternoon now. It's a comfortable spot. Sometimes she talks to me.

May 10th—Grandma gone. Back in the old place. She kissed me goodby.

June 3rd—Had a couple of four-leaf clovers stuck in me today.

July 1st—Packed in a trunk with clothes and other things. Off on a vacation, I guess.

July 7th—Still in the trunk, though nearly everything else has been taken out.

July 15th—Home again and in my old place. Quite a journey, though I did not see why I went.

August 1st—Rather stuffy and hot. Have two magazines, a novel and an old hat on top of me. Wish they would take them off.

September 5th—Clean up. Dusted and set right again.

September 10th—Used by Mary a few moments today. She was writing a letter to a friend whose brother had died and she wanted an appropriate verse.

September 30th—Clean up again.

—King's Business

### WANTED—A MESSENGER

The Lord Christ wanted a tongue one day,  
To speak a message of cheer  
To a heart that was weary and worn and sad,  
Weighed down with a mighty fear.  
He asked for mine, but, 'twas busy quite,  
With my own affairs from morn till night.

The Lord Christ wanted a hand one day  
To do a loving deed  
He wanted two feet on an errand for Him  
To run with gladsome speed,  
But I had need of my own that day;  
To His gentle beseeching I answered, "Nay."

So all that day I used my tongue,  
My hands, and my feet as I chose;  
I said some hasty, bitter words  
That hurt one heart, God knows.  
I busied my hands with worthless play,  
And my willful feet went a crooked way.

While the dear Lord grieved, with His work undone,  
For the lack of a willing heart!  
Only through men does He speak to men,  
Dumb must He be apart.  
I do not know, but I wish today,  
I had let the Lord Christ have His way.  
—Selected

The King's Highway

### HOW TO KEEP THE CHURCH SMALL

While I was driving the other night, trying to stay awake, I got to thinking of various ways to keep the church small. That is a strange subject to consider, but it seems some folks are afraid to help the church grow and do a better piece of work for God and the community.

You know the old fear of "growing large and worldly." Well, I assure you that I have no desire to do that, neither do I wish to fail God and those about me by staying small and cold.

Now if you want the church to fail to grow the best place to start is with yourself. Be sure to visit all the other churches you can think of as everyone appreciates a church tramp. Never attend your own church regular enough for people to get the idea you are trying to be faithful. After all it is much better for them to trust in God than man, and if you become too faithful there is a great danger of people looking to you.

To be sure you have a right to do as you please with you tithes. There is no doubt you are able to spend it as wisely as the church could. Just spread it to the four winds and look at the many it will help a little at least. There is real danger in putting it all into the local church for they might be able to accomplish enough for someone to get puffed up over it and that would not be wise. (Especially when building).

Of course everyone is human and subject to mistakes. Therefore, a good rule to follow is to be sure to point out the mistakes of others, especially to those who are rather new. It might take them a long time to learn all those things unless someone helps them. This will also have a tendency to break up long standing friendships and help to eliminate the possibility of "cliques" in the group.

Then, there is the church itself, we know it is not perfect. Always let new people and outsiders know you are a member, but be quick to let them know all of its weak points and assure them that if you were not already a member, you would never allow yourself to be "roped in" on such a mess again.

The pastor is always a good target. Be quick to point out his failures and weak points. Always try to destroy any trace of confidence others might have in him. This is most important. If you do not succeed here, you may well fail in all your tireless efforts. If you allow people to have confidence in the preacher, the church may grow some anyway. You have a big job to do, but it has been done and can be done again I'm sure.

Since I'm sure you all want the church to grow, just take all of the above points in reverse and I'm confident they will work much better. God will bless the united effort of His people.—Wesleyan Methodist.

If you are not growing more loving, more gentle, more tender and more easily entreated, then you are not growing in the right direction. We have a reputation of men who are well advanced in physical and intellectual progress.

The love of Christ is like a blue sky, into which you can see clearly, but the real vastness of which you cannot measure. It is like the sea, into whose bosom you can look a little way, but its depths are unfathomable.—

McCheyne